



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$500,000 TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SECURE EMPLOYMENT**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Office of U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will award the University of Rhode Island a \$500,000 grant for the ongoing “Rhodes to Independence” program. The funds will be used to continue the work of the program in supporting people with disabilities in securing and sustaining competitive employment.

Since 2000, the Rhodes to Independence program, under the auspices of the University of Rhode Island’s College of Pharmacy, has been administering a series of federal grants designed to make infrastructure changes in Rhode Island’s diverse network of agencies that provide services to people with disabilities. Specific strategies, products, and interventions have been developed to give Rhode Islanders with disabilities a “hand-up” to independence. These include:

- Working with youths at transitional ages
- Working with employers in retaining employees
- Information and outreach workgroups
- Transportation for people with disabilities
- Examining the barriers to housing
- Development of Medicaid buy-in legislation

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